



IG Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

July, 2001

Thoughts from the IG

By LTC Christopher Hatley

I am on board as the JRTC and Fort Polk IG. I am excited about this assignment and am looking forward to working with all the great folks we have here. Remember that my folks and I are here to assist the entire military community. Our focus is on war fighting and readiness. I encourage soldiers, family members, officers, commanders, DA civilians, and contract civilians to seek us out and allow us to help you.

I am getting around post to meet people and to learn the lay of the land. As I am doing this, I am constantly looking to see where we can improve. The principles the CG outlines in his 7 Dec 99, Command Philosophy, are the categories I use while making observations and assessing the command.

Discipline. It typically does not take long to ascertain an accurate assessment of a unit's state of discipline after seeing how the officers and soldiers look and conduct themselves. Do they look sharp? Do they render an enthusiastic greeting and salute? Do soldiers eagerly welcome the opportunity to describe their units? Are unit areas clean, neat, well maintained, and orderly?

Observations:

--Barracks. The command is in the process of upgrading barracks, but in the interim, some of our barracks

need improvement. I went into some rooms that have poor lighting; they are dank, unsanitary, and unmilitary. Our soldiers deserve better. It is up to leaders to enforce standards that are conducive to good order and discipline. The noncommissioned officer is the lynchpin when it comes to ensuring proper care of soldiers. Recommend commanders and NCOs read Command Policy #S-3, Single Enlisted Soldiers' Living Standards in the Barracks, 31 Aug 00.

--Wear of the uniform. There is one correct way to wear the uniform and that is in accordance with AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, 1 Sep 92. The regulation states, "...discipline is judged, in part, by the manner in which the individual wears the uniform as prescribed.... It is the duty of all soldiers to take pride in their appearance at all times." As I drive and walk around our military community, to include the surrounding cities and towns, I routinely see military personnel out of uniform. There are no provisions in AR 670-1 for wear of the uniform "off duty." Also, soldiers and officers are not to roll or block the BDU cap (AR 670-1) and the BDU cap with name tag and cat eyes is for field wear only as stated in Command Policy Memorandum #S-6, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Uniform Standards and Dress Code, 21 Nov 00. Bottom line, when in uniform, wear it properly.

--Use of Government Vehicles. This is the time of year for changes of command, departure ceremonies, etc. I see a lot of government vehicle use in conjunction with these activities. AR 58-1, Management, Acquisition and Use of Motor Vehicles, 28 Jan 00, states, "Military and civilian personnel of the Department of the Army may use Army motor vehicles when actually participating in official ceremonies (e.g., changes of command, parades, promotions, retirements, unit activation's/deactivations...or other similar events) or when attending as the senior official designated to represent the Department of the Army organization concerned.... Army motor vehicle transportation is not authorized for officials attending such ceremonies or events only in a personal capacity (e.g. personal friendship, family ties, prior professional relationship with the honoree or unit, etc.)." Bottom line, if you have a question as to appropriateness of the activity for use of a government motor vehicle, contact your legal advisor. If in doubt, I recommend use of personal transportation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Thoughts from the IG
- 2 Pregnancy Counseling
- 2 Earrings for Men
- 2 Flags for Indebtedness
- 2 Quarters Lockout
- 2 Religious Headgear
- 2 Quarters Violations
- 3 DUI and Military Driving
- 3 Combat Golf
- 3 Star Soldier Promotions
- 3 Profile Authorities

I am 4 1/2 months pregnant and have not been counseled by my commander, when is my commander required to counsel me?

By SFC Ward A. Miller

AR 635-200 states that when a unit commander believes that a soldier is pregnant, the commander will direct the soldier to report for diagnosis by a physician at the servicing Armed Forces Medical Treatment Facility. If the soldier is diagnosed as pregnant, the commander will counsel the soldier in writing using the pregnancy-counseling checklist. The soldier is required to sign the counseling. The regulation does not give a set date when the commander must counsel the soldier. When the commander receives a copy of the profile, counseling should begin. If the soldier requests a Chapter 8, she must be separated not later than 30 days prior to the expected date of delivery, or the latest date her military physician will authorize her to travel to her home of record, which ever is earlier.

What is the Army policy on the wearing of earrings by male soldiers?

By SFC Martha E. McClelland

MILPER Message 051606Z, Jun 98, para 1. B. Body Piercing, does not authorize attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the skin while in uniform, in civilian clothes while on duty, or in civilian clothes off duty on any military installation or other places under military control. Bottom line -- not in uniform, not on post, and not on duty. Women may wear earrings IAW AR 670-1, but all other body piercings follow the same policy.

Can my commander flag me for indebtedness?

By SFC Matt Weegens

Yes, the commander can flag a soldier for not paying debts. As with all flags, the commander should counsel the soldier in writing. Another tool the commander may use is a bar to reenlistment. The commander should look into all courses of action to determine which is best for the situation.

What do I do? It is 1800 and I have locked myself out of my government quarters?

By SFC Matt Weegens

If you lock yourself out of government quarters, after duty hours, you have to call the MP desk (531-COPS) and they will send someone out to open the door for you. It may take a little while for a patrol to get there depending upon the workload. If for some reason you have accidentally locked a child in the house and the child can not open the door, they will make it a priority. For those of you that lock yourself out of your house during duty hours you can call the lock shop at DPW (531-4521) and they will assist you.

Are soldiers authorized to wear religious headgear outside the religious service while in uniform?

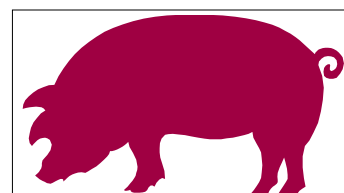
By SFC Martha E. McClelland

Yes. When outside the religious service, the headgear may still be worn, provided it can be covered by standard military headgear, and as long as it is subdued in color. For detailed guidance see AR 670-1, para 1.7.B (4) (a) thru (c), and AR 600-20, para (6) (a) thru (f).

My soldier violated his quarters two times in two days. As the Platoon Sergeant, can I bring him back to work?

By MRS Nancy Mantooth

Quarters are a recommendation made by a military caregiver when a soldier needs down time. The commander may bring a soldier in off quarters if he feels it is necessary. However, we always encourage the commander to discuss the soldier's case with the person who gave the quarters to ensure the soldier's health is not put at risk. The Sergeant needs to talk with his commander to determine the best course of action to take.



A soldier in my company received a DUI and had his driving privileges revoked. Can I order them to drive a military vehicle?

By SFC Richard Gregg

It depends. First the Installation Commander (CG) has the discretionary authority to administratively suspend or revoke driving privileges on the installation (AR 190-5). The intent in most cases is to restrict POV driving privileges only, and has relegated the suspension/revocation authority of military driving privileges to the company commander. Bottom Line: the commander does not need an exception to policy, but should seriously consider additional measures, to include counseling, remedial drivers training, and rehabilitation programs, as appropriate.

However, if the soldier's State has suspended or revoked their license, they cannot be issued a military license during the suspension period (AR 385-55). This includes military as well as POV driving. The Department of Transportation (DOT) maintains the National Drivers' Register (NDR) at a central driver records facility that contains information on the drivers whose civilian licenses have been denied, suspended, or revoked (AR 600-55). A licensing official should have ready access to this database to determine the validity of a soldier's license.

Can Fort Polk soldiers play a round of Golf in Battle Dress Uniform?

By SFC Richard Gregg

The answer is No. The Battle Dress Uniform is not appropriate attire for individuals participating in civilian outdoor activities such as volksmarches, orienteering, or similar activities. Spectators may wear the service uniform (Class A or B), if desired. Individuals participating in or observing these events are not authorized to wear utility or field uniforms. However, commanders of units participating as units or providing support personnel (e.g., medical and traffic control), may prescribe appropriate uniforms to include utility or organizational uniforms, if warranted by the occasion, weather conditions, or activity. If you have any additional questions or would like to research the data listed above, see AR 670-1, para 1.10-1 (f).

My STAR Soldier was supposed to be promoted upon graduation from PLDC. I cannot get his orders until the next month. Why can't I promote him now?

By MRS Nancy Mantooth

STAR soldiers are in shortage MOSs with low scores for promotions. If a STAR soldier makes the cutoff score before attending PLDC, the date of rank is the date of graduation. If the cutoff score is made during PLDC, the date of rank is the first of the month following graduation. The orders section, unit, and PLDC administrative personnel need to coordinate to ensure these soldiers receive the promotion dates they deserve and that they receive their hard earned promotion on time.

Can a physical therapist give my soldiers a profile?

By SFC James P. Jacks

YES, AR 40-66, para 12.1 says, " the medical officer or authorized examining official can assign a temp profile not to exceed 30 days."

AR 40-501, para 7.6 states, "Commanders of Army MTFs are authorized to designate one or more physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, audiologists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants as profiling officers. The commander will assure that those designated are thoroughly familiar with the contents of this regulation. Profiling officer limitations are as follows:

Dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists: No limitation within their specialty for awarding permanent numerical designators "1" and "2." A temporary numerical designator "3" may be awarded for a period not to exceed 30 days. Any extension of a temporary numerical designator "3" beyond 30 days must be confirmed by a physician."

DISCLAIMER:

The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the Department. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or of the command, but wherever possible, are supported by referenced Army regulations, policies, or procedures.